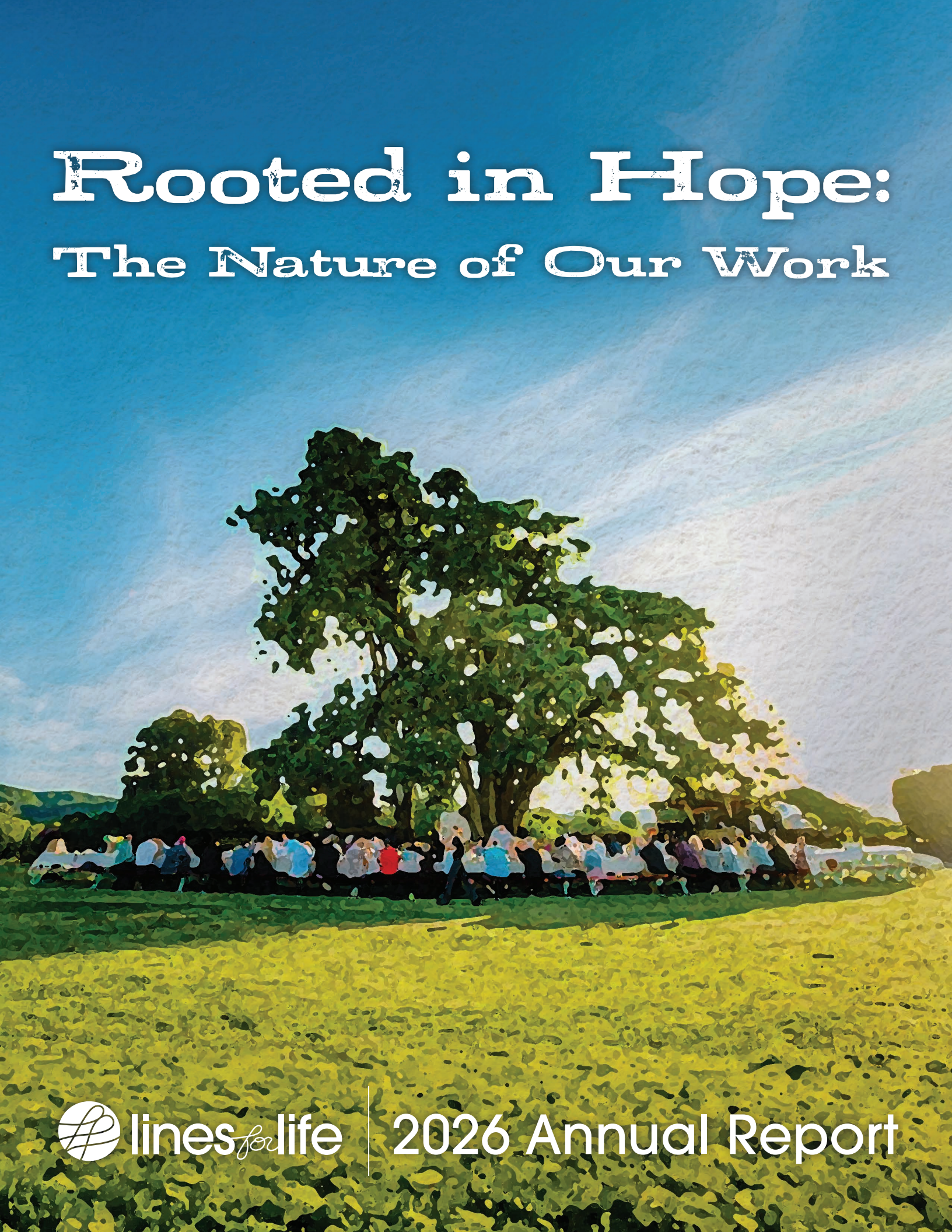
Rooted in Hope:
The Nature of Our Work



lines for life | 2026 Annual Report

Letter from the **CEO**

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

At Lines for Life, we are rooted in hope. Every tree that weathers a storm does so because of what you can't see: the roots holding it steady, drawing strength from the ground beneath it. At a time of real uncertainty for behavioral health, it's crucial that Lines for Life delivers more support and more resources to our community, that our roots provide hope to people throughout Oregon.

To extend YouthLine coverage hours, we launched our youth peer support model on Maui. Young people on Maui are now supporting youth in crisis all over the United States from YouthLine Hawai'i — delivering peer-to-peer support that research shows is so effective.

This past year, we connected with more than 185,000 people in crisis. And three years after the launch of the 988 crisis line, we have powerful evidence that it works: a study published this year in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that suicide deaths among U.S. teens and young adults fell 11% more than researchers had projected. Thanks to the 988 crisis line, 4,372 fewer young people died by suicide — and are still writing the chapters of their lives. This is what happens when someone in crisis has somewhere to turn, and a highly trained crisis responder ready to help.

The Construction Suicide Prevention Partnership (CSPP) expanded its reach and delivered new and innovative tools to support workers and help make jobsites healthier. This year, CSPP launched a new anonymous online mental health assessment tool where workers can do a self-check — and get connected to resources. And we launched a first-in-the-nation Spanish-language curriculum of Toolbox Talks, expanding our reach on jobsites across the Pacific Northwest.

Our Equity and Cultural Engagement work is putting deeper roots in communities that have too often faced barriers to accessing behavioral health resources. One of these programs, the Custody to Counseling Pipeline, is building a pathway to careers in behavioral health for people who've been incarcerated — and who understand, firsthand, what it means to need support and not find it.

We're reaching further in our community training programs, which this year deepened our work with military communities, bringing mental health training to service members, veterans, and the families who stand behind them in partnership with our friends at Boeing.

And we reached further, in the most joyful way, with our new UnGalas, our farm-to-table dinner series at Topaz Farm. Gathered under the oak tree, our community broke bread, learned from shared stories, and reminded each other why this work matters.

None of this happens without you. Every dollar, every hour, and every partnership is what lets our roots grow deep enough to weather whatever comes next. Thank you for staying rooted with us, and for believing hope is not naive. It is something we build, together, one call, one conversation, and one community at a time.

With deep gratitude,

Dwight C. Holton

Dwight Holton
CEO, Lines for Life

YouthLine: Growing New Roots for Peer Support

This has been a difficult year for mental health funding across the country, and Oregon has been at the forefront of those challenges. And that's why it's all the more important that YouthLine spent this year growing its reach and impact.

From Maui to Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi

Last year, we told you about planting something new: a youth-to-youth crisis line launching out of an office in Kahului, staffed by 12 volunteers from four Maui high schools who had, in a matter of months, gone from strangers to a team. Today, YouthLine Hawaiʻi operates from the offices of our partners at Imua Family Services, where local youth volunteers answer crisis calls, texts, and chats from young people across the nation. Their work adds three hours to YouthLine's day.

In the past year, YouthLine Hawaiʻi has grown into a vital part of the web of support for youth mental health in Hawaiʻi — with YouthLine volunteers from high schools all over Maui staffing the YouthLine three shifts every week. In February, the Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative awarded YouthLine Hawaiʻi $100,000 in new funding from Maui United Way and Kaiser Permanente. And in May, the State of Hawaiʻi renewed and expanded its funding, ensuring long-term growth and development of YouthLine Hawaiʻi.

Youth Voices Leading the Way on the National and International Stage

In July, YouthLine volunteers from Oregon and Hawaiʻi took the stage at two major national mental health conferences and participated in a panel before the Senate Finance Committee in the nation's capital.



On Capitol Hill, Senator Ron Wyden was joined by Senators Jeff Merkley, Mazie Hirono, and Tim Kaine and Rep. Don Beyer to welcome the YouthLine volunteers to the Senate Finance Committee for a forum co-hosted by the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The senators and Rep. Beyer asked YouthLine panelists about youth connection and mental health — paving the way for national YouthLine expansion as Sen. Wyden played master of ceremonies.

At the annual meeting of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, YouthLine panelists explained how youth peer services can expand the reach of state programs.

> "Young people understand the challenges their peers face in ways adults often can't," said **National YouthLine Director Emily Moser**. "Every day, our volunteers listen to young people who are feeling overwhelmed, isolated, or unsure where to turn. They remind their peers that they don't have to face those moments alone."

And the fourth Global Crisis Now Summit showcased YouthLine volunteers to help leading suicide prevention experts from around the world understand the power of youth connection.

For Oregon volunteer Megan Hassett, the moment it became real was watching the room fill up. "It finally settled in. I would be presenting in front of them," she said. "What we said could significantly impact how these important people view and support YouthLine as a whole." Her nerves eased once her fellow volunteers took their seats beside her. "Their presence reminded me I was not alone."

What stayed with her afterward wasn't her own remarks but the senators'. Several shared personal stories about loved ones who had struggled to find mental health care, stories that, she said, "stood out because they expressed how it is never expected for someone you know or love to have mental health issues." Hearing that people in the senators' own lives had once needed a service like 988 or YouthLine, before either existed, stuck with her.

YouthLine now reaches more than 25,000 young people in crisis every year, from all 50 states and beyond. That's what rooted hope looks like: not a single moment of growth, but the follow-through that makes growth last.

Growing Hope Through **Advocacy**

Lines for Life had important policy wins in Salem this year — and some work still to do.

Our biggest win came with our longtime partner, Senator Lisa Reynolds. Over 70% of teens now use artificial intelligence (AI) “chatbots,” which are essentially virtual AI-generated companions. With mounting evidence that AI chatbots are proving to be dangerous and even deadly, especially for young people, Lines for Life reached out to Sen. Reynolds for help. Sen. Reynolds, a pediatrician in Portland, had first-hand experience with her patients: “What is coming up for me all the time in my exam room is parents feel like they're fighting a losing battle,” she said. With a coalition of concerned parent and tech groups, Sen. Reynolds designed legislation to build guardrails on how AI chatbots interact with people — and what they do when communicating with users who are at risk of suicidality or self-harm. The result: SB 1546 requires AI companion platforms to detect signs of suicidal ideation and immediately connect users in crisis to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. SB 1546 establishes additional protections — including time limits and disclosure requirements. Sen. Reynolds built a broad coalition of support for the bill and highlighted testimony from YouthLine volunteers, who shared their experience supporting youth who have used chatbots. Sen. Reynolds navigated SB 1546 to overwhelming support in both the state House and Senate.

“This law helps turn a moment of risk into an opportunity for intervention and hope,” said **Lines for Life CEO Dwight Holton**.

Gov. Tina Kotek held a ceremonial signing for the bill in May, joined by behavioral health leaders, frontline crisis workers, and YouthLine volunteers who played a critical role in getting the bill passed. The legislature made important strides in prevention as well this session. Senate Bill 1571, also sponsored by Sen. Reynolds, brought oral nicotine pouches, sold with no age restriction and minimal verification online, under the same licensing rules that already govern cigarettes and vapes. Nicotine pouch exposure cases had been climbing nationally, and the product's discretion made it an easy way for underage users to access an addictive substance without walking into a store that would card them. Lines for Life's Senior Advisor for Substance Use Prevention Services Deborah Dedrickson championed the bill from start to finish, work that helped move it through the Senate 26-1 and secure the governor's signature in March. The law took effect in June, requiring nicotine pouches, gum, and lozenges to carry the same licensing and sales restrictions as any other tobacco product.

Lines for Life also supported efforts to bring more sensible regulation to the sale of cannabis in Oregon. Senate Bill 1548 would have capped cannabis edibles at 10 milligrams of THC per individually wrapped serving, a response to a real and rising number of accidental poisonings among young children who mistake high-potency edibles for ordinary candy. Also sponsored by Sen. Reynolds, Lines for Life offered its unqualified support, standing alongside pediatricians, poison control physicians, and major medical organizations who argued the bill would prevent exactly the kind of medical emergencies already showing up in Oregon's poison center data. The bill passed the Senate but was killed in the House, leaving Sen. Reynolds poised to renew the effort during the 2027 legislative session, where Lines for Life will stand with her again.





Prevention and Education: Growing Stronger Together

Our Prevention team is blazing new ground this year, adding resources and bringing the key parts of the organization working on prevention into better alignment for greater impact. For years, multiple departments have carried out prevention work across Lines for Life: Training, Prevention, and Equity and Cultural Engagement. Conversations about prevention programming, particularly around substance use prevention work, kept circling back to the same tension: "There's actually a ton of prevention work happening across the organization," said Lines for Life Strategy Officer Colleen Brush. "What people could see visibly was a little bit diffused, just because there were so many people doing different parts of it."

As our longtime Prevention Director Donna Libemday looked to retirement after 20 years leading the department, we started asking the question, with Donna's help: What could prevention at Lines for Life look like if it were built from the ground up? "Rather than replace the irreplaceable," Colleen said, "it's time to reinvent." The result is a combined Prevention and Education team, now testing what it looks like to run Training, Prevention, and Equity and Cultural Engagement as one.

The difference already shows up in small, practical ways. "With more people able to step in on a grant, a training, or an outreach request, it allows us to be a lot more efficient, which creates more capacity and leads to more opportunities to get us into more spaces and doing more things," said Lines for Life's Director of Equity and Cultural Engagement Martin Lockett.

By the end of this fiscal year, the goal is for Lines for Life to have a clearer prevention identity, so people in the community know what we do and can reach the right resources the first time they call. "The community doesn't care how we organize ourselves internally," Colleen said. "They don't care which department does the work. They just want Lines for Life there in that space with them, leading with impact."

What defines prevention at Lines for Life was never the org chart.

> "Anything we're doing community-based, that brings community together, invites conversation and really creates a sense of belonging and awareness and reduces stigma," **Colleen** said. "That's prevention."
>
> Colleen Brush
> Strategy Officer

A year from now, each of the three will measure a different aspect of the team's progress, but together those measures should tell the same story: a more connected team, broader reach, and greater impact.

Construction Suicide Prevention Partnership:
Changing Mental Health on the Jobsite

Construction remains one of the industries hit hardest by suicide, and construction workers are more likely to die by suicide than from a workplace accident. Stigma, culture, and access to care all shape whether a worker gets the support they need. In 2026, the Construction Suicide Prevention Partnership (CSPP) worked to put innovative, effective tools and skills in the hands of construction workers across the nation.

This year, CSPP filmed, produced, and launched 22 new Toolbox Talks — short videos that construction teams use on jobsites to build skills and start the conversation about mental health.

This new series of videos includes a complete curriculum of 16 Spanish-language Toolbox Talks, joining the English curriculum CSPP produced in 2024. Spanish-speaking workers make up about 30% of the construction workforce, so these videos ensure mental health resources speak the same language as the workers who need them. The series covers the same important topics as CSPP's English-language Toolbox Talks, from recognizing warning signs to knowing how to start a conversation, delivered by trainers and workers who understand both the culture and language of the jobsite. This complete curriculum of Spanish-language mental health Toolbox Talks is the first of its kind in the nation!

Once a worker recognizes the warning signs, the next question is often the hardest: Where do I even start? CSPP answered this year by delivering an innovative new tool: confidential online self-assessments. The assessments focus on the topics that are front and center for construction workers: anxiety, depression, drinking, gambling, and drug use. These five new anonymous mental health assessments empower workers to check in on their own mental health, get immediate feedback, and connect directly to resources based on their results — all confidential. Two of the five are available in Spanish as well, extending that same first step to workers who might otherwise never take it.

"No industry takes safety more seriously than the construction industry," said **Lines for Life CEO Dwight Holton**. "The Construction CareLine and everything CSPP has built this year help our construction partners support mental health, a key part of that safety commitment."

CSPP brought all of it together during Safety Week 2026, pairing the new Toolbox Talks and assessments with a full resource packet, so companies could put mental health resources directly in workers' hands even when CSPP wasn't there in person. Because mental health on the jobsite isn't a one-week conversation. It's a year-round commitment.



Meeting Communities Where They Are:
Building Skills, Improving Access, Reducing Stigma

Typically, your hairstylist isn't your therapist, and a group conversation isn't a clinical appointment. But Lines for Life's Equity and Cultural Engagement team continues to prove that finding hope doesn't need conventional tactics to take root. It just needs a place people trust, and a language they speak.

For Oregon's Spanish-speaking communities, that trust is essential. The federal crackdown on immigration has exacerbated strain, pressures, and anxiety in nearly every part of daily life in immigrant communities. That includes feeling safe answering the door, showing up to an appointment, or speaking Spanish out in public. For many families, mental health simply isn't first in line.

> “Many people in Spanish-speaking communities aren’t having conversations about mental health because so many of us are living in survival mode, thinking about food, work, bills, and everything else that has to come first in order to survive,” said **Lines for Life's bilingual Cultural Engagement Coordinator Kiara Reyes-Ramirez**.

Reaching this community means showing up first, in places with trust built in already.

That emphasis on trust has long shaped Lines for Life's Black and Brown Barbershop and Hair Salon Community Conversations, a program that trains barbers and stylists in a mental health training called Be Sensitive, Be Brave (BSBB). The goal is to use the trust clients already bring to the barber or stylist’s chair and create a doorway to real support. This year, Lines for Life held its first Spanish-language barbershop conversation at a barbershop in SE Portland, training the stylists in BSBB. For a program built on trust and familiarity, meeting people in their own language wasn't an add-on. It was the whole point.

That same value, "meeting people where they are," drives the Charlas, Spanish-language community conversations on mental health. Held both in person and virtually, the Charlas bring Spanish speakers together in a group setting to talk openly about mental health in a culturally affirming space. This year, Kiara and Bilingual Community Training Specialist Jenny Camarena helped bring Charlas to more communities, and the results speak for themselves. Participants surveyed after a Charla said they walked away with new mental health knowledge and a better understanding of how to support themselves or someone they love. One participant put it simply: the experience helped them realize just how important it is to practice mental health and self-care. A community that didn't have a culturally aligned space to talk about mental health is now building it, one conversation at a time.

Lines for Life is also building trust and conversations with the Custody to Counseling Pipeline, a program that helps adults in custody obtain certification as Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors. It pairs this education with the transition support participants need to use that certification once they're out.

This year, the Oregon Health Authority awarded Lines for Life over $80,000 to expand the program, with additional funding expected next year. The investment, made in partnership with the Oregon Department of Corrections, the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, United We Heal, and leading addiction treatment providers, will fund training and transition services for participants preparing for careers in Oregon's behavioral health workforce.

"People with lived experience bring something important to behavioral health care," said Lines for Life Director of Equity and Cultural Engagement Martin Lockett. "This program creates an opportunity for people to turn their experiences into skills, build a career and return to their communities as professionals who understand what many of the people they serve are going through."

Hope doesn't take root in unfamiliar places. It takes root where people already feel safe enough to sit down. This year, Lines for Life helped create more of those places, one conversation, training, and trusted connection at a time.



Community Training:
A Stronger Foundation for Military Care

While suicide among vets has declined in recent years, suicide continues to be a major challenge for those who have served our country. For every service member who dies in combat, 25 to 30 die by suicide after they come home. We built Lines for Life's Military Culture Awareness and Suicide Prevention training (MCASP) to build skills among vets, their families, and communities to reduce veteran suicide. The full-day training equips behavioral health providers, health care workers, educators, counselors, and anyone connected to the military and veteran community with the cultural fluency and clinical skill that general training often misses, from military-specific language and cultural cues to trauma-informed suicide risk assessment built for service members, veterans, and their families.

"It's exactly the kind of work Community Training does best," said **Lines for Life Director of Clinical Training Amy White.** "Putting skills into the hands of people who work directly with folks who might struggle is the most effective way to address challenges and prevent suicide," she said. "MCASP makes reaching veterans a priority — and builds skills to better serve the vets who served all of us."

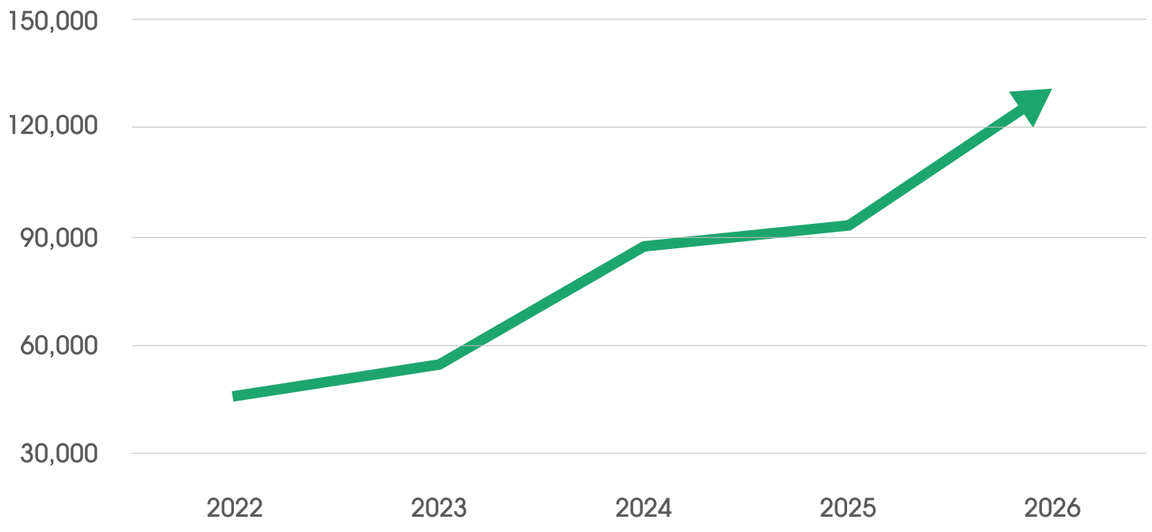
Our partners at Boeing have long been devoted to better supporting U.S. veterans. Fifteen percent of Boeing's U.S. workforce are veterans. A regular supporter of MCASP over the past three years, Boeing most recently provided $60,000 in funding to expand the training's reach across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. "This partnership means serving more vets in more communities across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, so those who have served our country get the compassionate, culturally responsive care they deserve," said Lines for Life CEO Dwight Holton. "The MCASP program is a strong example of hope in action and, along with our Military Helpline, helps ensure no veteran or family member faces a crisis alone."

That is what this partnership makes possible: turning understanding into access, and access into hope. Because when a veteran reaches out for help, the person on the other side of that conversation should have the knowledge and skills to understand what they are carrying.





Combined 988 (Oregon + National Back-up), Including calls, chats & texts.



Growing a Stronger **Lifeline**

On July 16, 988 marked four years since it became the nation's three-digit line for anyone in crisis. Four years in, the evidence of effectiveness is proving what our call responders feel on every shift: 988 saves lives.

In April, researchers published a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association comparing actual suicide deaths to deaths projected before the launch of 988. Suicide deaths were down from projected numbers for every age group. The research was particularly poignant for young people: Between July 2022 and December 2024, roughly 4,372 fewer young people died by suicide than researchers projected would have died without 988, an 11% reduction. "Thousands of people are still here with us, writing the next chapters of their stories because of 988," said Lines for Life CEO Dwight Holton.

What made the study especially meaningful was what the numbers showed beneath the headline finding. States with the largest increases in 988 call volume saw the largest drops in suicide deaths.

"I know that change really does happen by reaching out to 988," said **Lines for Life Chief Clinical Officer Greg Borders.** "But to see the numbers really just reinforced that on a large scale, what we're doing is working."

That pattern holds true here at home. In the year before 988, Lines for Life reached about 30,000 Oregonians on the national Lifeline. This year, our 988 responders will support around 115,000 Oregonians in crisis.

What the JAMA study tells us is that growth in 988 contacts means more hope — and fewer suicides.

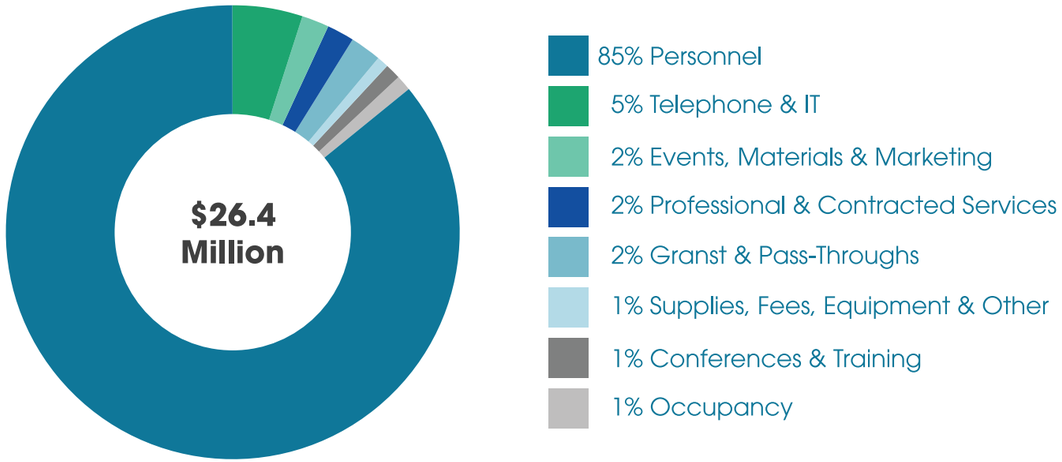
To better meet this growing volume, the Crisis Lines team reorganized to improve supervision and team building. With shifts working in teams and clinical supervision more clearly aligned with responders, staff get faster, more direct, real-time support. New tools are also giving supervisors and staff better information to identify issues, track performance, and respond more quickly. "Staff aren't getting mixed messages anymore about who to go to or what's expected of them," said Lines for Life Crisis Lines Director Chris Nathe. "When a team manager is present on shift, issues get caught in real time instead of surfacing days later in a report. That alone has changed how the floor feels."

The restructuring also created a more cost-effective management structure, reducing the cost of answering each call while improving the quality of care we deliver. "Every efficiency we find in how we're organized is something we can put behind the people actually answering calls," Chris said. "That's the whole point of doing this."

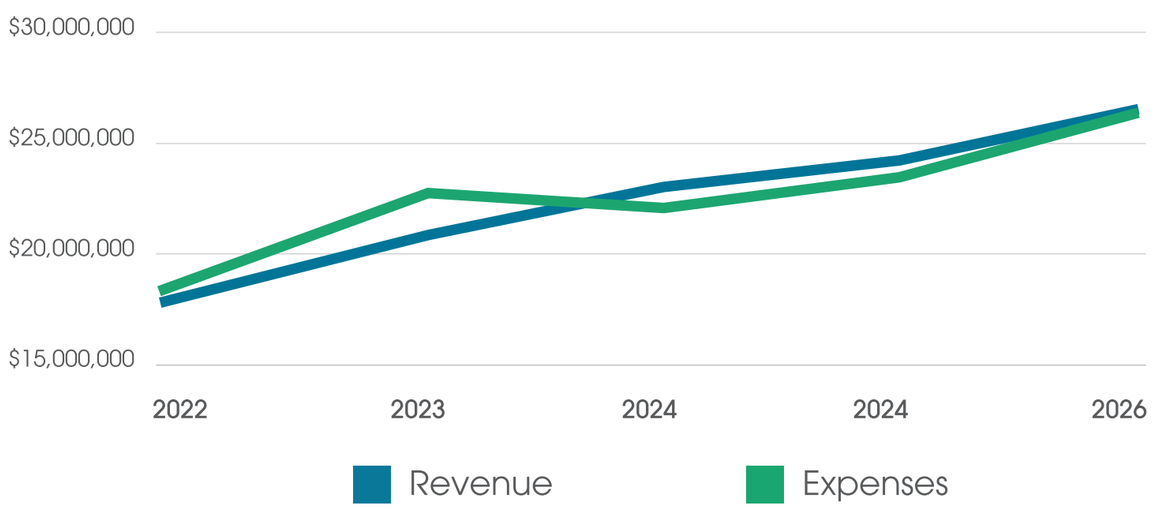
Four years after 988 launched, the growing evidence around its impact points toward the same conclusion. Answering the phone works.

Fiscal Year 2026 **Financials**

Expenses Fiscal Year 2025-2026



Year by Year Revenue & Expense Growth



Rooted in Hope: Lines for Life Launches UnGalas!!!!

For decades, friends and supporters have come together to support Lines for Life at the Always Hope Gala. It's always been an evening of hope — and vital to supporting our work.

This year we decided to mix things up — replacing the one big gala with a series of smaller, farm-to-plate dinners at Topaz Farm on Sauvie Island.

We dubbed the dinners the UnGalas — and what a huge success!

Out: A big ballroom, hundreds of people, and a long program.

In: A family-style dinner under a 500-year-old oak tree, on a beautiful farm, with terrific food and a focus on community.

We raised more money than ever before, at a fraction of the cost of the traditional gala, so our net proceeds climbed a whopping 40% over last year!

Equally important, the evenings' energy and sense of community changed the narrative from a fundraiser to "all about joining us on the journey" of our work, as one UnGala guest put it.

Program teams shared their work with guests during happy hour, and our fun(ny) trivia cards tested guests' knowledge of Lines for Life!

Special thanks to Anne Naito and Oregon Rises Above Hate — for paying for the dinners, resulting in every dollar raised going to support our work!

> "The UnGalas helped us deliver a more memorable, more personal, and more meaningful experience for our community," **Lines for Life CEO Dwight Holton** explained. "And that led to increased support for our work."

We can't wait to be back in 2027 with another series of Rooted in Hope UnGala dinners.



Funder Spotlight: **Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation**

Lines for Life's YouthLine was selected this year as a recipient of a prestigious Zinnia Grant from the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation. The grant, totaling $800,000 over three years, is transformational — empowering us to extend our services to more communities across Oregon.

The grant, totaling **$800,000** over three years, is transformational — empowering us to extend our services to more communities across Oregon.

The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation is an essential philanthropic partner, awarding over $22 million in grants in 2025 to dozens of nonprofits for projects supporting education, community, arts, creativity, health, and well-being in Oregon.

Sally and Dave Bany launched the foundation in 1998 to honor Sally's grandmother, Marie Lamfrom. After serving as a nurse at age 18 during World War I, Marie, her husband Paul, and their three daughters escaped Nazi Germany to the United States. Settling in Portland, Marie and Paul founded the company now known as Columbia Sportswear.

Marie dedicated her life to helping others, especially children — she was active in the Girl Scouts in Oregon for over 40 years! In 2019, Marie's daughter Gert Boyle, Columbia Sportswear leader and legend, left much of her estate to the foundation, which exponentially expanded the impact of its work.

The foundation has long been a partner and pillar of support for Lines for Life. In 2021, Lines for Life received a $25,000 Rose Grant from the foundation to expand YouthLine into East Portland, work that led to the launch of a satellite location at McDaniel High School. In 2023, its newly launched Youth Advisory Board awarded the program additional funding. Later that year, the foundation awarded Lines for Life a two-year, $70,000 Daffodil Grant.

With the transformational funding from the Zinnia Grant, YouthLine will build on this work, with a focus on rural areas in Oregon. This resource reaches thousands of young Oregonians every year through classroom outreach but primarily serves young people in communities near our call center locations. Thanks to the grant, we've started to build a network of regional outreach coordinators embedded in Southern and Eastern Oregon, strengthening our local relationships and connections with young people. We've also expanded our mini-grants, supporting suicide prevention programs at schools across the state. Finally, we've increased our social media engagement, meeting youth where they are — online.

Through this partnership, Marie Lamfrom's legacy continues to make a difference in the lives of young people across Oregon, and for that we are grateful.

2026 Top **Supporters**

We are filled with gratitude as we celebrate the steadfast support of our partners. The highlighted projects in this report serve as a powerful reminder of the impact that is achieved through collaboration and community. Your steadfast commitment is crucial to preventing substance use and suicide, making our challenging yet rewarding work possible.

AGC Oregon-Columbia
Apollo Mechanical
Kerry Bendel
BestCare Treatment Services, Inc.
Boeing
Burrow Family Foundation
Cambia Health Foundation
Carr Construction
Celerity Consulting Group
Charter Mechanical
City of Hillsboro
Clarios
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Community Tree Service
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Echo Fund
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Fast Undercar/Parts Authority
FOX12 Oregon
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Goodfellow Bros.
Patti and Steve Hale
Hastings Equity
Hawai'i Community Foundation
Hawai'i Dept. of Health
Heritage Bank
Hoffman Corporation
HP Civil
JH Kelly
Samuel S. Johnson Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Heather Killough
Nancy Lematta
Les Schwab
Lobdell Family Charitable Fund
MKD Electric
Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation
Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative
Maui United Way
McCall Enterprises
Paul and Sally McCracken Fund
Meyer Memorial Trust
Miller Family Foundation
Morgan Stanley
Anne Naito/Oregon Rises Above Hate
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
Oak Tree Insurance
OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation
OCCU Foundation
Olive Bridge Fund
Oregon Department of Corrections
Oregon Health Authority
Oregon-Pacific-Cascade Chapter NECA
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Port of Portland
Portland Trail Blazers
Reser Family Foundation
Pat Reser and Bill Westphal
The Roundhouse Foundation
Scott Family Fund
Summer Lea Hillman Foundation
The Standard
Swinerton
Mike Tietz
Paul and Lory Utz
Verstela
Vestis/Aramark
Western Partitions
Wheel Pros
Wildhorse Foundation
Wilhelm Kartak Trust
Senator Ron and Nancy Bass Wyden

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Dwight Holton
Chief Executive Officer
Lines for Life

Thank You

lines for life

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